

Amendments to the Drawings:

Replacement **Figures 4** and **5C** are submitted since the original **Figures 4** and **5C** contained incorrect element numbering. Applicants respectfully submit the replacement sheet of **Figures 4** and **5C**, which clearly represents the subject matter described in the specification on page 7, lines 3-10, and page 8, lines 13-23.

Attachment: 1 Replacement Sheet
1 Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS

Amendments were made to the specification to correct errors and to clarify the specification. No new matter has been added by any of the amendments to the specification.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

I. Application to be Considered Special

This application has received a fifth, non-final Office Action. As per MPEP § 707.02, Applicant respectfully requests that the Supervisory Patent Examiner personally check on the pendency of this application and make every effort to complete prosecution of this application.

II. Drawings

The Office objects to the Drawings because:

The drawings do not including elements 400 and 402;

Reference character 300 has been used to designate both a data processing system and a keyboard unit;

Reference character 302 has been used to designate both a bus and a wireless unit;

Reference character 510 has been used to designate both a switch unit and a keyboard wire;

Reference character 504 has been used to designate both electrically responsive liquid and a top portion; and

Reference characters 500 and 510 have been used to designate a switch unit.

With regard to elements 400 and 402, **Figure 4** has been amended to correct an incorrect numbering of elements. Amended **Figure 4** in turn corrects the duplicate designation of elements 300 and 302. With regard to elements 500 and 510, **Figure 5C** has been amended to correct an incorrect numbering of elements. Amended **Figure 5C** in turn corrects the duplicate designation of element 510. With regard to element 504, the specification has been amended to eliminate the reference to top portion 504. In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests the objection to the Drawings be withdrawn.

III. 35 U.S.C. § 121

The Examiner requires an election to one of the following species:

Species I, drawn to a user input device integrated within a fabric apron [see Fig. 1; Page 5, Lines 4-16 of the instant Specification, for instance]; and

Species II, drawn to a user input device integrated within a pair of fabric pants [see Fig. 2; Page 6, Lines 11-21 of the instant Specification, for instance]; wherein Species I and II each further comprise:

Sub-Species A, wherein the user input device is a drawing tablet or mouse cursor movement panel apparatus for detecting pointing-type input [see Page 8, Lines 17-23 of the instant Specification, for instance]; and

Sub-Species B, wherein the user input device is a keyboard apparatus for detecting keystroke-type input [see Fig. 4; Page 7, Lines 3-10 of the instant Specification, for instance]; wherein **Sub-Species B** further comprises:

Sub-Sub-Species 1, wherein the keyboard-type apparatus is a traditional keyboard system [see Page 5, Lines 14-16 of the instant Specification, for instance]; and

Sub-Sub-Species 2, wherein the keyboard-type apparatus is a chording keyboard system [see Page 5, Lines 17-26 of the instant Specification, for instance].

(Office Action, dated July 25, 2006, pages 2-3)

In response to the Election Requirement, Applicant **provisionally elects** Species I, Sub-Species B, Sub-Sub-Species 1, for claims 1-20 **with traverse**.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has not met the burden of making a *prima facie* showing of a serious burden on the Examiner, as is required in order to make a restriction or election requirement. MPEP § 808.02, Related Inventions, states that where related claimed inventions are shown to be distinct, the Examiner in order to establish reasons for insisting upon restriction/election, must show by appropriate explanation one of the following: (A) The distinct inventions fall under different subject matter classifications (e.g., patent classifications); (B) The distinct inventions have separate status in the art, notwithstanding being classified together; or (C) It is necessary to search for one of the distinct inventions in places where no pertinent art to the other distinct inventions is shown (i.e., different field of search).

Where, however, the classification is the same and the field of search is the same and there is no clear indication of separate future classification and field of search, no reasons exist for dividing among related inventions. (*MPEP*, § 808.02).

In the present case, the Examiner has made no such showing in the current Office Action. The Examiner has listed various species, but has not provided any basis upon which the claims cannot be examined together without imposing a serious burden on him of the type specified in *MPEP* § 808.02. Moreover, the Examiner has already examined the claims that are being restricted. That is, the Examiner has already examined the subject matter of claims 1-20. If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions. (*MPEP*, § 803). In view of §§ 808.02 and 803 of the *MPEP*, Applicant respectfully submits that if the Examiner is unable to make a showing of serious burden, then no restriction of the claims should be required of Applicant. Consequently, Applicant traverses the election requirement on the grounds that a sufficient showing of a serious burden on the Examiner has not been made.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the election requirement be withdrawn. Please note that Applicant has based the election requirement traversal on grounds that do not relate to the distinctiveness of the claims. No statement or representation in this Response should be interpreted as an admission that the claims are not patentably distinct with respect to each other.

IV. Conclusion

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

DATE: August 9, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

/Francis Lammes/

Francis Lammes
Reg. No. 55.353
Yee & Associates, P.C.
P.O. Box 802333
Dallas, TX 75380
(972) 385-8777
Agent for Applicant

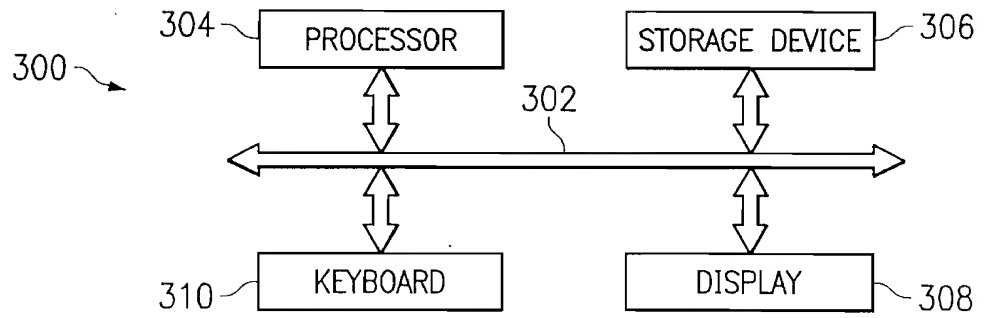


FIG. 3

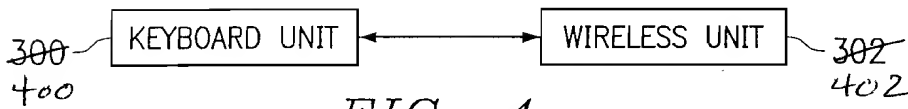


FIG. 4

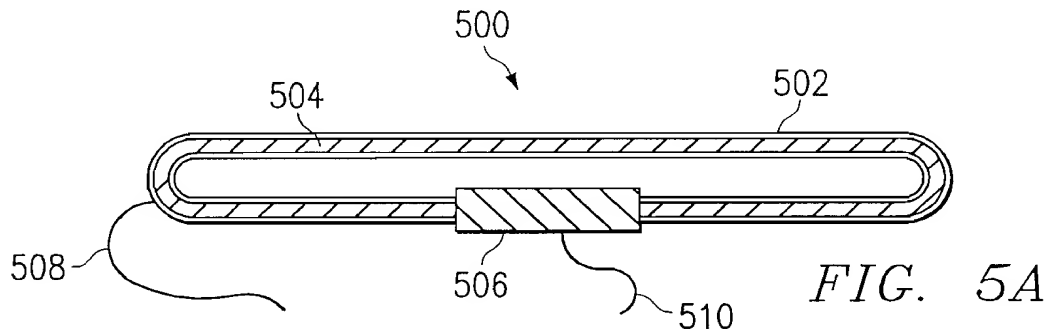


FIG. 5A

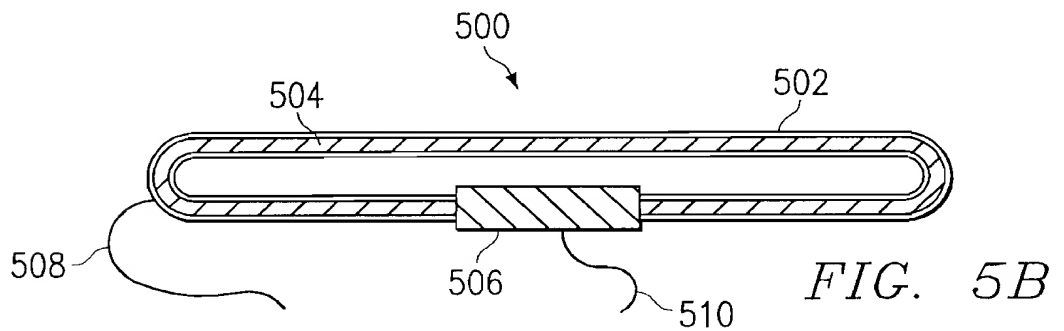


FIG. 5B

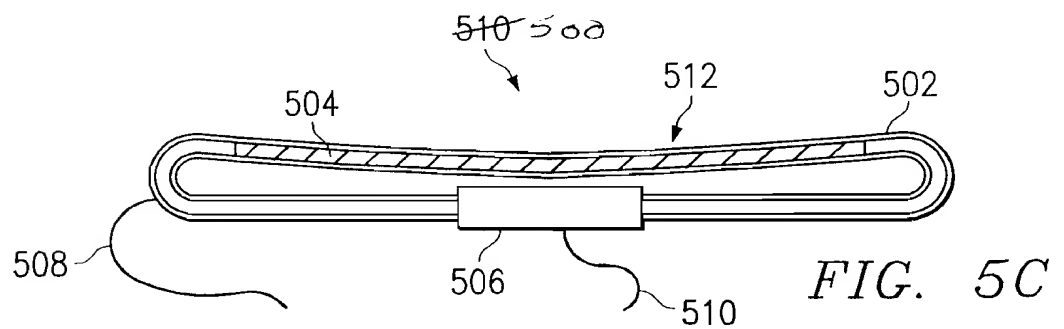


FIG. 5C